

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 1911.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held in the American Museum of Natural History, February 7, 1911, at 8.15 P. M., with President Leng in the chair and seventeen members present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Schaeffer, the librarian, reported the receipt of the following publications:

Canadian Entomologist, Vol. XLIII, No. 1.

Zeitschrift fur Wissensch. Insektenbiologie, Vol. VI, Nos. 11, 12,

Coleopterorum Catalogus, Pts. 24, 25, 26.

Tijdschrift voor Entomologie, 1910, Nos. 3, 4.

Wiener Entomol. Zeitung, Vol. XXIX, Nos. 9, 10.

Bull. de la Societe Imperiale des Naturalistes de Moscow, Vol. XXIII.

Entomologisk Tidskrift, 1910, Nos. 1-4.

New South American Parasitic Hymenoptera. J. C. Crawford.

New Species of Reared Ichneumon-flies. H. L. Viereck.

On Some Hymenopterous Insects from the Island of Formosa. S. A. Rohwer.

The curator, Dr. Lutz, reported that the Seifert collection had been acquired and that the boxes were arranged temporarily in the curator's room until suitable cases could be secured.

Dr. Southwick commented on the local collection of plants which he was presenting to the society, and stated that genus covers like the one exhibited were being installed and that later the specimens would be placed in them. In the local flora within 50 miles of N. Y. City 154 orders, 800 genera, and some 2,300 species are represented. Originally it was planned to arrange the specimens according to the insects infesting them, but it had been decided to arrange the collection as a botanical one. Attached to the cover of each plant there will be a list of the insect species infesting that particular plant and each sheet will be numbered and indexed.

Mr. Leng announced that the members at work on the local collection of Coleoptera would study the Scarabæidæ for the next few weeks.

Dr. Osburn presented his own photograph for the Society's collection and urged the members to present theirs. He also exhibited a sample of a method of binding pamphlets.

Mr. Pollard, chairman of the dinner committee, announced that 30 acceptances had been received. It was moved and carried that \$2.20 be appropriated from the treasury to defray half of the expenses of printing and sending out the announcements of the dinner.

Mr. Schaeffer, for the publication committee, stated that the March number of the JOURNAL had been sent to the printer and that this would be the

first number to contain miscellaneous short notes. Only two such notes were to appear in this number and Mr. Barber urged the members to present others for future numbers. It was suggested that members not attending the meetings might furnish such notes and suggested that a statement of the fact that they were desired be inserted under this heading in the JOURNAL.

Mr. Schaeffer reported that Professor J. B. Smith was presenting a loose-leaf copy of the List of N. J. Insects so that the society might bind it as desired and requested suggestions as to binding. After some discussion it was moved and carried that a committee be appointed to arrange for the binding of the List in such a manner as it was thought desirable and to solicit members to take charge of the various orders and record new captures. The president appointed on this committee Messrs. Engelhardt, Schaeffer, Osburn, G. W. J. Angell and Southwick. An additional copy of the List was presented to the society by Mr. Dow.

Mr. Groth exhibited some separates of the late Dr. Otto Seifert's papers some of which had been published in connection with his collection. Mrs. Seifert had presented these as well as some of Dr. Seifert's unpublished manuscripts which the society might publish if it so desired.

Mr. Pollard exhibited a case of rare exotic Saturnians and made some interesting remarks concerning the various species represented. He stated that Africa did not contain as many species of this group as some other regions of the world, but that the species and varieties found there were very interesting.

Mr. Grossbeck exhibited a variety of *Utetheisa bella* L. in which the pink had been replaced by a bright yellow and said that the specimen had been captured in the field and picked out of 300 specimens which he had taken in an hour near Paterson, N. J. He had been attracted to that particular spot by the larvæ crawling along the railroad track. Following these to their origin he found that they came from a sand hole surrounded on the other three sides by the walls of the pit and that growing in the bottom of the pit was an abundance of *Crotalaria*, the food plant of the larva. The caterpillars which had stripped the plants were migrating in search of food, but were unable to cross the rails. Thousands of larvæ were seen to be thus migrating.

Mr. Engelhardt exhibited an albino variety of *Utetheisa bella* L., several specimens of which he had taken at Rockaway Beach. He spoke also of the variety from Cuba, with the fore wings bright red, and of *Utetheisa ornatrix* L. which had been observed to vary considerably in Porto Rico, and suggested that an investigation of these insects in Jamaica by Mr. Grossbeck on his anticipated trip to that island, would be of much interest.

Mr. Davis showed 2 specimens of *Cicindela limbalis* Klug taken in the Ramapo Mts. in May, and stated that this made 5 or 6 specimens which had been taken locally. Mr. Harris mentioned the fact that Mr. John Sherman had taken several specimens of *patruela* Dej. and *limbalis* Klug under stones on an elevation near the Hudson River, at Peekskill, N. Y.

Mr. Wheat stated that recently he had examined wood along the shore at

Rockaway Park, Jamaica Bay, N. Y., for *Teredo* specimens. In one stick which was washed ashore he found, on cutting it open, Dipterous pupa cases and flies in the *Teredo* burrows, from which the flies were unable to escape. The species was not determined but evidently the fly had laid eggs in the burrow so that the maggots might feed on the remains of the mollusk.

Mr. Barber reported the capture of two Hemiptera new to the New Jersey list—*Acantholoma denticulata* Stål by Dr. Lutz, at Schooleys Mts., near Hackettstown, N. J., and *Banasa sordida* Uhl. by Mr. Davis in Cape May Co., N. J.

Society adjourned.

E. L. DICKERSON,  
Secretary.

#### MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 1911.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at the American Museum of Natural History, February 21, 1911, at 8.15 P. M. with President Leng in the chair and twenty-three members present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Schaeffer reported that the committee appointed to arrange for the binding of the List of Insects of New Jersey had decided to divide it into several volumes and that an introduction and index would be provided for each of the interleaved volumes by Professor J. B. Smith.

Mr. Schaeffer also stated that the Bureau of the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature had requested that the JOURNAL be sent to them regularly and he moved that such a copy be sent. Motion carried.

Under scientific discussion, Mr. Henry Bird gave an interesting account of "New York City's Newest Moth, *Papaipema moeseri* Bird." This recently described species was found in the Adirondack region and western New York and also breeding in a glade on Staten Island. The first imago was obtained by a Buffalo, N. Y., collector. The larva was found breeding in a food plant near that of *Papaipema impecuniosa* Grt. and as it very closely resembled the larva of the latter it was at first mistaken for it. Later studies, however, proved it to be distinct. In Hampson's Catalogue in his table of *Papaipema* this species is placed near *delincata*. Mr. Bird also commented on the splendid work Hampson was doing in this catalogue.

Mr. Barber discussed the "Resurrection of *Thyana calceata* Say from Synonymy." This species he said had been considered synonymous with *Thyanta custator* Fab., but a difference was first noted in the number of chromosomes of the two species by Professor E. B. Wilson, of Columbia University. Mr. Barber had secured as large a series as possible of the two forms, and a careful examination showed that they differed in several characters and were evidently distinct species. Moreover *calceata* seemed to be an eastern and more of a highland form while *custator* occurred in the west and extended south and west.

Dr. Osburn spoke on the distribution of Syrphidæ, common to North

America and Europe. He had been studying this question for some time and thought it a very interesting one, because the family Syrphidae was an old one geologically and the larvæ, being largely either predaceous or living upon excrementitious material, were not like many groups, dependent upon some particular food plant. About 400 species of this family were known from North America and a similar number were recorded from Europe, and of these 48 species included in 21 genera were common to both continents. The distribution of the genera was found to be interesting and varied. Of the 64 species of the genus *Syrphus* known to inhabit Europe, 12 are also found in North America; of the 40 or 50 species of *Eristalis* found in Europe 4 occur in America as well. In the large genus *Chilosia*, only one species is common to Europe and America. In other large genera there is no species common to both continents. There are 5 genera in which all the species occur in both Europe and America. Concerning the distribution of these species which inhabit both Europe and America, 40 occur in northeastern America and of these 14 species are not found elsewhere on this continent. 21 of the 40 species are distributed southward into New Jersey and of these 5 do not occur elsewhere in North America. Four of the 40 species found in northeastern America range across the continent to the northwest. In the northwestern part of America 9 species common to both continents occur and of these 5 range southward into British Columbia. From southern British Columbia and northern California 19 species common to both Europe and America are recorded, and of these 15 occur in the eastern and northeastern part of the continent. One species recorded from this locality is found in Arizona and New Mexico and also in the East. One species, *Volucella obesa*, found in Central America, northern South America, Texas and Florida also occurs in the South Seas and Indian Ocean but is not found in Europe. *Spharophora cylindrica* has been recorded from Japan and is widely distributed in North America. Ten species are widely distributed all over Europe and North America and among these is *Eristalis tenax* L., which is found throughout the world. The species *Merodon equestris* burrows in lily bulbs in the larval stage and may be distributed in the infested bulbs. It is recorded in America from the eastern United States and Washington. As to how most of this family has been distributed is a question, but it seems probable that the European species common to America may have come by way of Greenland.

Discussion followed as to the various ways in which species were distributed.

Society adjourned.

E. L. DICKERSON,  
*Secretary.*

#### MEETING OF MARCH 7, 1911.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held in the American Museum of Natural History, March 7, 1911, at 8.15 P. M. with

the President, Mr. Leng, in the chair and fifteen members present.

In the absence of Mr. Dickerson Mr. Engelhardt acted as secretary *pro tem*.

Report of Treasurer :

Society account .....	1,177.39
JOURNAL account .....	99.75
	\$1,277.14

The report of Curator stated that good progress had been made in the arrangement of local collection of Coleoptera by members of the Society and in the mounting of the museum material collected last season, which will be available at an early date.

The arrangement for a joint field meeting with the Brooklyn Entomological Society over Decoration Day at Yaphank, L. I., was referred to Mr. Engelhardt.

Mr. Olsen's resignation as a member of the field committee was accepted and Mr. Sleight was appointed in his place.

Mr. Comstock spoke on Lycenidæ and based his remarks upon material collected by Mr. Hallinan in the Panama Canal Zone, which region he pointed out as a natural dividing line for many North and South American species. A beautiful series of specimens, particularly rich in *Theclas*, was shown. Mr. Hallinan obtained 51 of the 121 species recorded from the Panama Canal region. In flight, Mr. Hallinan mentioned, some of the large iridescent *Theclas* resemble *Morphos*, others persistently frequent the tops of tall thorn trees where their capture requires much patience and considerable forbearance. Thus of *polybe* and *regalis*, after a week's trial, only four specimens were secured.

Mr. Shoemaker told of his collecting experience at Washington, D. C., where he spent two weeks last year during June accompanied by Mr. Davis. He obtained about 3,000 specimens of Coleoptera and Lepidoptera, many of which were new to his collection. Most of the collecting was done on the slopes of the Potomac, both on the Maryland and Virginia sides. Part of his catch including the following species was shown. *Panagæus fasciatus* Say, *Platynus caudatus* Lec., *Callida viridipennis* Say, *Odontonyx trivittis* Germ, *Sandalus petrophya* Knoch, *Chalecolepidius viridipilis* Say, *Trichius delta* Forst., *Calligrapha amelia* Knab, *Bellamira scalaris* Say, *Cacopha pullata*, Hald, *Statira croceicollis* Makl., *Nemognatha cribraria* Lec., *Cirrhophanus triangulifer* Grt., *Manestra marinitincta* Harvey, *Plagiomimicus pityochromus* Grt., *Acontia aprica* Hbn. A large number of Carabidæ, Scarabæidæ, etc., were captured in bait bottles, of which 70 were planted and regularly inspected. Excepting condensed milk, which proved not very productive, only a mixture of molasses, such as collectors of Lepidoptera generally supply to trees, was used as bait. Mr. Davis showed a number of photographs of the Potomac River region near Washington and also many species of insects of various orders, among them the large bot-fly *Cuterebra horripilum* Clark, the

rare dragonfly, *Neurocordulia obsoleta* Say, and the little cricket *Myrmecophila pergandei*, which latter species, he thought, ought to be found in New Jersey, if looked for in its habitat—ant's nests. Attention was called to the average larger size in a series of *Carabus limbatus* Say from Washington as compared with a series of the same species from the mountains of southern Georgia.

As an instance of the predicament in which a collector is apt to find himself, Mr. Davis cited his experience in the capture of a beetle *Calligrapha amelia* Knab. The beetle was observed in a difficult position for capture among the twigs of a bush of ninebark, its food plant. But what rendered proceedings still more difficult was the discovery of a copper head lying coiled below. Mr. Davis had the satisfaction of exhibiting both beetle and snake.

Mr. Pollard spoke on the occurrence of *Chlorippe celtis* Bdv. & Lec., at Washington where at times the butterfly is exceedingly abundant.

Mr. Davis exhibited 24 specimens of insects that he had found attending the glands on the upper side of the leaves of *Populus grandidentata* and called attention to two of them, a bee of the family Halictidæ and a *Crabro* wasp, which he had observed flying from leaf to leaf and visiting many different glands. It was pointed out that the insects were probably not guided by color in this instance, as they would have been in visiting flowers.

Mr. Schaeffer showed a pair of Scarabæid beetles, *Fruhstorferia sexmaculata*, from Tonkin, China, calling attention to the peculiarly elongated mandibles of the male.

Society adjourned.

G. P. ENGELHARDT,  
Secretary pro tem.

#### MEETING OF MARCH 21, 1911.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held in the American Museum of Natural History, March 21, 1911, at 8.15 P. M. President Leng in the chair with six visitors and nineteen members present.

Minutes of February 21 and March 7 meetings read and approved.

Mr. Schaeffer, the librarian, reported the receipt of the following publications:

Zeitschrift für Wissensch. Insektenbiologie, Vol. VII, No. 1.

Mitteilungen Naturhist. Mus. Hamburg., Vol. XXVII.

Coleopterorum Catalogus, Part 27.

Deutsche Entomol. Zeitschrift, 1911, No. 1.

Bull. del lab. di Zoologia generale e agraria, Vol. IV.

The Canadian Entomologist, Vol. XLIII, No. 2.

Memorias del Instituto Oswaldo Cruz., II, No. 2.

Revue Russe d'Entomologie, Vol. X, No. 3.

Zoological Record for 1909, Insects, Vol. XLVI.

He also reported that he had had bound the N. J. List of Insects in four

volumes, Blatchley's Coleoptera of Indiana in 2 volumes, and the last two volumes of the JOURNAL and these were exhibited to the members for examination.

Under scientific discussion Dr. Lutz presented an interesting paper on the "Evolution of the Environment," illustrated by several lantern slides. Owing to his absence, due to sickness, this paper was read in part by Mr. Leng. Dr. Lutz discussed the ways in which the land surfaces were altered and lowered by the action of wind, water and other natural agencies, and through the work of man, and then discussed how changes in vegetation occurred following those in topography, beginning with the mosses and lichens clinging to the bare rocks or those slightly covered with soil and developing to the maximum vegetative condition of the meadow or dense forest.

Dr. Love gave some "Notes on Insect Collecting in the Yellowstone National Park." He stated that he had taken a pleasure trip to the Yosemite Valley, Cal., the Grand Canyon of the Colorado in Ariz., and the Yellowstone National Park, and had collected insects as opportunity served. Dr. Love described the country, illustrating his talk with a number of beautiful lantern slides, and exhibited two boxes of insects of various orders which he had collected. Dr. Osburn inquired whether insects had been found around the hot springs in Yellowstone Park and stated that the dragonfly, *Argia virida*, which was southern in its distribution, had been found in the vicinity of the hot springs there and at Banff, Alberta.

Mr. Davis announced that he had received a letter from Mr. Harris, who was staying at Camden, S. C. Mr. Harris noted that the recent frost had had an injurious effect on vegetation, but that he was finding some interesting collecting. He had been collecting *Cicindela vulgaris* Say and *repanda* Dej., and several specimens of an immaculate form of *Cicindela unicolor* Dej.

Mr. Hallinan reported the following N. J. captures: *Pachnobia salicarium* Wlk., Fairlawn, Bergen Co., April 24, in a meadow; *Euthyatira pudens* Gir., Little Falls, Passaic Co., April 27, at arc light; *Memythrus palmii* Hy Edw., Little Falls, Passaic Co., July 4, near arc light; *Calymnia orina* Gn., Little Falls, Passaic Co., July 20, near arc light. The specimens were presented by Mr. Hallinan to the local collection.

Mr. Leng stated that he had received from Mr. W. E. Britton, state entomologist of Conn., a copy of a preliminary list of the Coleoptera of Connecticut and would be glad to obtain from the members any interesting records of capture of beetles in Connecticut.

Society adjourned.

E. L. DICKERSON,  
Secretary.